



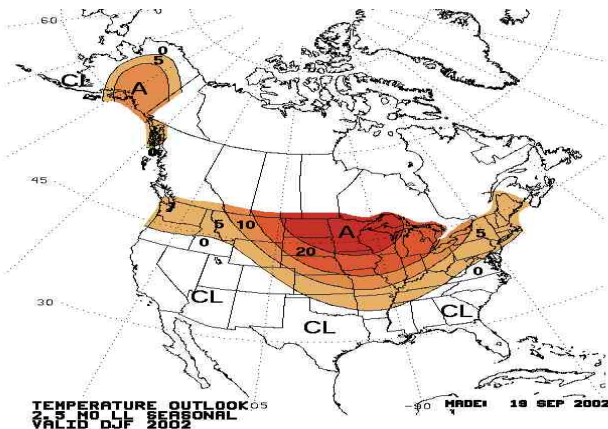
El Niño May Impact Iowa's Fall and Winter Weather

Winter Weather Outlook

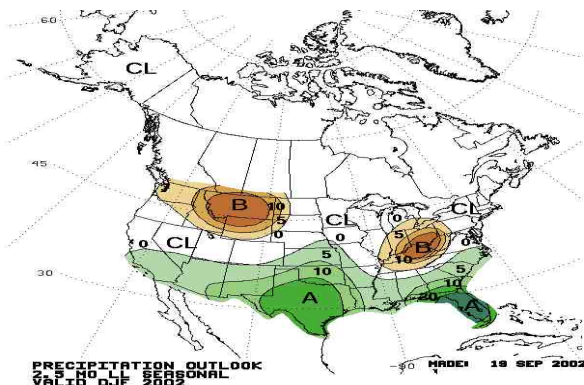
After months of developing in the tropical Pacific Ocean, El Niño is poised to influence fall and winter weather across the United States, according to NOAA's top climate experts. The El Niño influence will be weaker than the very strong 1997-98 El Niño, but it should still impact temperature and precipitation patterns across the U.S.

What does this mean for the Upper Midwest? There will be a better than equal chance of above normal temperatures in the winter months and of below normal temperatures in the fall and spring. El Niño is not a strong predictor of precipitation patterns in the Upper Midwest so climatological normals should be used for planning purposes.

Temperature Outlook - December through February.



Precipitation Outlook - December through February.



Winter Weather Awareness Week

The National Weather Service and the Iowa Emergency Management Division have declared **November 4 through November 8, 2002**, as Winter Weather Awareness Week in Iowa. Each year Winter Weather Awareness Week is held to remind Iowans that the winter weather season is rapidly approaching.

Each day during Winter Weather Awareness Week, the National Weather Service will issue Public Information Statements highlighting various winter-weather topics. Public Information Statements will be posted on the National Weather Service, Des Moines, web site in the preparedness section. Topics for Winter Weather Awareness Week are:

Monday - Winter-weather products

Tuesday - Blizzards and winter storms

Wednesday - Extreme cold and wind chill

Thursday - Heavy snow

Friday - Ice storms

For Winter Weather Awareness Week to be successful, media coverage is vital. Interviews, special programming and news articles are encouraged. Contact Jeff Johnson, National Weather Service, to schedule an interview at 515-270-4501, ext. 726.

New This Fall!

Public Service Announcements (PSAs) will be available on the National Weather Service, Des Moines, web site! PSAs regarding winter weather include topics such as vehicle safety, bitter cold and National Weather Service products and are available in 30- or 60-second recordings. The PSAs can be downloaded as an audio file (MP3 or WAVE). Go to www.crh.noaa.gov/dmx/winter.shtml to download the PSAs.

Product News

Hazardous Weather Outlook

The format of the Hazardous Weather Outlook (HWO) changed on October 1, 2002. The new format will be consistent with the format used by other National Weather Service offices. The HWO will be issued daily around 6 a.m. and updated as needed.

The HWO product identifier also changed on October 1, 2002. Customers who wish to receive the HWO should add the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) communications identifier below to their appropriate databases.

WMO ID	FLUS43 KDMX
AWIPS ID	DSMHWODMX

NOAA Weather Radio Expansion Update



NOAA Weather Radio Expansion in 2002 was very active. Across Iowa, nine new NOAA Weather Radio stations were installed and became operational in 2002. Ninety-two counties are part of a NOAA Weather Radio Service Area and are receiving routine and emergency weather information and emergency nonweather alerts.

The NOAA Weather Radio expansion project is not complete. There are still weather-radio-coverage holes in a large part of north central Iowa and in small parts of west central, far south central and northeast Iowa. Efforts to close the remaining gaps will continue.

National Digital Forecast Database

The National Weather Service is planning a National Digital Forecast Database (NDFD). The database will be comprised of mosaics of local gridded (digital) products that are generated at forecast offices and of national and oceanic scale gridded products that are issued from national centers. The NDFD will eventually become the primary forecast database of the National Weather Service. Currently, locally derived gridded products are available for central Iowa on the National Weather Service, Des Moines, web site.

Tornado Numbers Down in 2002

Through late-September, Iowa has had 31 tornadoes in 2002. This number is 14 short of the average calculated since 1980. Most of the tornadoes in 2002 weak and have not caused any deaths.

Iowa Weather News is a publication of the National Weather Service in Des Moines, Iowa. If you have comments or suggestions, please contact:

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